

# WARRIOR MONTHLY

## A Message From Our President

First, I need to thank the members of the organization for putting their trust in me, and electing me President. I am truly honored and do understand that with this job comes a duty to our skating members to keep the WHA moving forward and to run it in a financially sound manner.

I need also to thank Pete Ratycz, for his past two years as President, and many previous years on the board. He can now sit back in the after-glow of having donated substantial portions of his time to the WHA, and enjoy watching his kids play. Pete advises he will still actively participate in board meetings, etc. for the requisite year.

I also need to thank the departing board members, Rick Sudetic and Kris McCrone. Unless you are a regular at the board meetings, or have served on the board, most families have absolutely no idea the number of decision that need to be made to keep this \$200,000.00 business running. From the minutia of uniforms and fund-raisers, to setting dues and selecting coaches. These past members, (and current) dedicate substantial portions of their own time, to make it possible for our kids to play the wonderful game of hockey.

With that said, I am looking forward to working with the current board, and their new members, Ed Patton (VP), Jason Novak (Membership) and Rick Thrasher (Hockey Director), as well as the rest of this board. I say this with all honesty, and I do not know what other organizations are like, but I could not envision a better group of interested parties to run this organization than the current board. It is an under-appreciated job, and they all understand this, but tackle all tasks with alacrity, (look it up).

*My goals for the organization over the next two years are:*

- 1) Keep the financial picture in the BLACK. The organization can , (and has) run in the RED before, and it takes a special amount of stewardship from the entire board to keep us sound. I thank Pete for his two "in the black" years, and look forward to continuing this trend.
- 2) Keep moving the organization forward. We are coming off a very good year, with success in both the CSHL league, and our independent birth year teams. We had good fun, and raised some real money at our fund-raisers, (Golf Outing, Night at the Races, Presidents Tournament), and also managed to help our families out by not only not raising dues last year, but by putting \$60.00 of WHA money toward our new Jerseys, (which by the way are the coolest in the area).
- 3) I want to continue to keep working toward the success of our Birth Year teams, and yet not loose focus on our "mixed" teams as well. I truly believe we are on the front of the wave for Birth Year competition, but do not want to loose focus on our true goal of teaching hockey to as many youth as we can.
- 4) In line with item (3) above, we need to rededicate the board to building an in-house program that can feed the upper teams with future stars. Hockey numbers are down significantly across not only the Cleveland area, but the nation, (USA Hockey). They no longer come knocking at our door, but instead we need to go get them. We have already begun this task, with fantastic early success thanks to the work of the Novak's (Melissa and Jason), and in house coach Gabe Gerard, amongst others.

I hope this letter finds you enjoying spring hockey, or enjoying a respite from it. The WHA is planning on offering some drop-in scrimmage ice during the summer, look for an announcement soon. Remember the birth year tryouts are coming up soon, and look to see you all at the rink soon.

*Joe Geither, President WHA*

April, 2007



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HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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## Birth Year Team Tryouts

Tryouts for the birth year teams begin next week. Please check the web site under the Cleveland Warriors page for locations, dates and times. If you have not sent in your registration form that is attached to the tryout flyer, please do so prior to tryouts.

As in the past, player rosters will be posted on the web page. What may be different this year is potentially using an assigned number for a player rather than posting the players last name.

Even though you may have pre-registered, it is important you check in and fill out the tryout form at the registration table prior to tryouts. Detailed information on tryout process will be emailed and posted on the web page. Tryout fee is \$50.00.

## USA Hockey Registration Begins May 1st, 2007

WHA will begin on-line registration for USA Hockey starting May 1, 2007. This year there will be no paper registration for USA Hockey, everyone must register on-line.

This year all players must **first** register for USA Hockey on-line prior to processing your WHA application. Please follow these easy steps:

1. Go to [www.usahockeyregistration.com](http://www.usahockeyregistration.com). Choose the "Ice Players & Coaches" prompt to register your child on-line. Select the 2007-08 season. Complete the required information and pay the USA Hockey fee of \$35.00 per player.
2. After you register, print and save the USA Hockey confirmation form with the bar code, you will need to provide a copy of this when you send in your registration.
3. You will also receive an email confirmation of your USA Hockey on-line registration.
4. Save a copy and then forward this email to [j13novak@gmail.com](mailto:j13novak@gmail.com)

## Night at The Races—Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars now for the WHA Night at The Races scheduled for Saturday, November 17th, 2007 at the Ampol Hall on Pearl Road in Parma. look for more information coming soon! Please contact Jane Fazio to see how you can help. (440) 532-9347. Coaches and managers, please do not schedule tournaments this weekend.



# WARRIOR MONTHLY

## Winterhurst Girls Earn Opportunity at Nationals !

Through hard work and the desire to seek a higher level of challenge, three young ladies in our program earned the opportunity to compete at the National's in San Jose, California during the last weekend in March. Congratulations to Katie Bilak, Madison Ratycz, and Heather Lindsay who all participated and gave their best at the 2007 Nationals. Katie Bilak played for the U-14 Team Pittsburgh, Madison (Maddie) Ratycz played for the U-12 Team Pittsburgh, and Heather Lindsay played for the U19 Ohio Flames.

With an increase of female hockey players registering in US Hockey it is certainly exciting to see some of our ladies rise to the top and continue to pursue higher levels of competitive play. Check out the exclusive player interviews!

### Katie Bilak

Katie played for the U-12 flames last year where they played against Team Pittsburgh. Kathy Pippy, their team manager, called Katie and said they were getting this team together and they were National bound. The Bilak's were not quite sold until they learned that Jessica Brown who plays for the Barons 93 was going to play. Jessica has an excellent reputation for being a very good player and Mom and Dad thought this would be a great opportunity. In Districts, Katie's hat trick was assisted by Jess and in another game in Districts, Jess's hat trick was assisted by Katie. Winning Nationals would be ideal, but getting them there was the goal. The teams that play at Nationals such as, Assabet Valley (Mass.) and Team Illinois (who won Nationals) are very competitive girls hockey teams. These teams play full time together whereas Team Pittsburgh is a part time team, every girl on that team plays full time boy's hockey. To qualify for Nationals each girl has to only play a minimum of 10 games with the team. At Nationals, Team Pittsburgh lost to Alaska 3-0, lost to CT Polars 3-1, and lost to Team Illinois (National Champs) 4-1. To put it in perspective, this "part time team" not only swept Districts, but came to Nationals and really competed well against other teams. Carrie Bilak adds a personal note: *"My personal advice to anyone that has a daughter playing hockey is to play with the boys as long as it is possible and to also have them play on a part-time girls hockey team. They will become a better, faster, and a stronger player. Playing with the boys and part time girls will help them ease into girls hockey, get some exposure, and meet girls their own age that share the love of hockey. It has been great for Katie!"*

#### A Quick Interview with Katie Bilak

Q. In your journey to the Nationals, what was your most memorable moment?

A. *"My most memorable moment was when I had a hat trick at Districts"*

Q. What have you learned about yourself from this opportunity?

A. *"After seeing the competition, I learned that I have a lot of things to learn about the game of hockey"*

Q. What are your future hockey plans?

A. *"In the future, I want to play college hockey and make it to the Women's Olympic Hockey team"*

Q. What advice can you give to the younger girls who play hockey at Winterhurst?

A. *"I would tell the younger girls they need to work as hard as they can and to listen to the advice of coaches and others because it will most likely help their game"*



#### Katie's Profile:

Birthdate: 7/4/93  
Hometown: Fairview, OH  
WHA Team: Bantam 1  
Jersey#: 9  
Position: Forward

# WARRIOR MONTHLY

## Maddie Ratycz

Q: What led you to tryout for Team Pittsburgh?

A. "Since this was my last year at playing on a 12U team, I wanted to play on a team that had a good shot at making Nationals. It's very, very hard to get to Nationals- boys and girls teams. My Dad had heard that the 12U team playing in Pittsburgh had a lot of talent. We sent an email and they invited me for a tryout. I wasn't sure about playing for the Pittsburgh Aviators mainly because my Dad hates the Steelers, but I was quickly accepted by a few of the players at tryouts. Mario Lemieux was one of the assistant coaches so I thought it was really cool! During tryouts he told me nice job and I almost fainted!:"

Q. In your journey to the Nationals, what was your most memorable moment?

A. "Being in the opening ceremonies with all the teams at different age groups was awesome. I also had fun visiting Alcatraz and doing other sight-seeing with my team mates- and of course playing mini sticks."

Q. What have you learned about yourself from this opportunity?

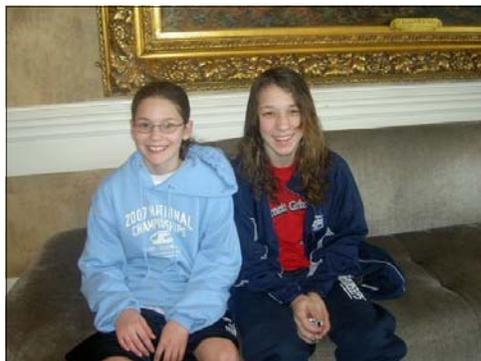
A. "That I love the green mountains and would love to live in California until I remember that it's going to fall into the Pacific ocean one day. What I really learned most was that great skaters don't win at this level but rather great teams do."

Q. What are your future hockey plans?

A. "Since I move up to Bantams this year, I plan on hopefully playing full-time on a girls team, not sure whether it may be in Ohio or Pittsburgh. I do plan on attending the 14U tryouts in two weeks for the Pittsburgh Aviators. Unlike this years team, it will be full-time and involve traveling to Chicago 2/3 weeks and weekends for Showcase games."

Q. What advice can you give to the younger girls who play hockey at Winterhurst?

A. "Playing with the boys was lots of fun and I made many friends. I'm glad I skated at Winterhurst- besides having the coolest uniform, the coaches were always comfortable with girls on the team. It's easier to play with boys as a mite and squirt because you don't check or have to travel as far as if you were playing girls hockey. If anything, I would tell a girl player to skate with boys for as long as you can (checking included- it's not that bad until you break a collar bone like I did last season!) I would also have the parents look for some part time opportunities with local girls' programs like the Ohio Phantom Flames and Gilmour. At some point, you miss playing around in the locker room with the rest of the team since you always dress alone in the girls locker room. There have been some rinks that I had to get dressed in a wet rest room- Yuck! Playing on boys' teams for seven years has given me a lot of confidence in myself."



Katie and Maddie at the Nationals

### Maddie's Profile:

Birthdate: 2/7/94  
Hometown: Westlake, OH  
WHA Team: Peewee 1  
Jersey#: 1  
Position: Forward



# WARRIOR MONTHLY

## Hockey Rule of the Month – Handling Puck with Hands

**A.** If a player, except a goalkeeper, closes his/her hand on the puck, the play shall be stopped and a minor penalty shall be imposed on him/her. A player shall be permitted to catch the puck out of the air but must immediately place it or knock it down to the ice. If a player catches it and skates with it, either to avoid a check or to gain a territorial advantage over his opponent, a minor penalty shall be assessed for "closing his hand on the puck".

**B.** A goalkeeper must not deliberately hold the puck in any manner which, in the opinion of the Referee, causes a stoppage of play, nor throw the puck forward towards the opponent's net, nor deliberately drop the puck into his pads or onto the goal net, nor deliberately pile up snow or obstacles at or near his net, that in the opinion of the Referee, would tend to prevent the scoring of a goal.

*(NOTE) The object of this entire Rule is to keep the puck in play continuously and any action taken by the goalkeeper which causes an unnecessary stoppage must be penalized without warning.*

**C.** The penalty for infringement of this Rule by the goalkeeper shall be a minor penalty.

*(NOTE) In the case where the puck thrown forward by the goalkeeper being taken by an opponent, the Referee shall allow the resulting play to be completed, and if goal is scored by the non-offending Team, it shall be allowed and no penalty given; but if a goal is not scored, play shall be stopped and a minor penalty shall be imposed against the goalkeeper.*

**D.** A minor penalty shall be imposed on a player, except the goalkeeper, who, while play is in progress, picks up the puck off the ice with his hand.

If a player, except a goalkeeper, while play is in progress, picks up the puck with his hand from the ice in the goal crease area, the play shall be stopped immediately and a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending Team.

**E.** A player shall be permitted to stop or "bat" a puck in the air with his open hand, or push it along the ice with his hand, and the play shall not be stopped unless, in the opinion of the Referee, he has directed the puck to a teammate in any zone other than the defending zone, in which case the play shall be stopped and the puck faced-off at the spot where the offense occurred, except when the offense occurs in the attacking zone in which case the ensuing face-off shall be conducted outside the defending Team's blue line in the neutral zone.

Play will not be stopped for any hand pass by players in their own defending zone. A hand pass in the defending zone is considered to have occurred when both the player making the pass and the player receiving the pass have both of their skates inside their defending zone.

A goal cannot be scored by an attacking player who bats the puck with his hand directly into the net. A goal cannot be scored by an attacking player who bats the puck and it is deflected into the net off any player, goalkeeper, or Official.

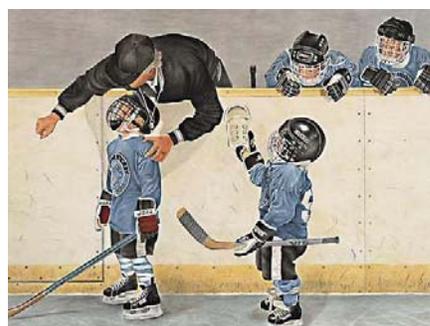
# WARRIOR MONTHLY

## 2006-07 Coach Selection

The 2007-08 coach selection committee under the direction of Rick Thrasher, ACE Coordinator has been formed and is currently conducting activities associated with the coach selection process. Efforts are underway to announce 2007-08 coaches early this year!

### Coach Selection Committee

Rick Thrasher  
Ray Wtulich  
Danny Koncelik  
Kevin Spellacy  
Jane Fazio  
Pat Patton  
Matt McClain



## New Developmental Programs For WHA

Rick Thrasher, WHA ACE Coordinator is busy preparing for new skill programs for all levels this year. The focus will be on providing division based power skating and stick handling sessions for the upcoming season. In addition, WHA has invested in bumper guards for the In-House Program...look for future 3 on 3 tournaments at WHA next year!

## WHA Board 2007-08

President:	Joe Geither	joseph.geither@us.abb.com
Vice President:	Ed Patton	epatton@mggmlpa.com
Treasurer:	Pat Patton	patrick.patton@cox.net
Checks Out:	Jeff Bradley	jbradley@OCPM.edu
Secretary:	Chris Pulling	pullll@adelphia.net
Program Director:	Joe Walkush	jwalkush@ameritech.net
ACE Coordinator:	Rick Thrasher	mi3ninos@hotmail.com
Membership & Registration:	Jason Novak	j13novak@gmail.com
Ways and Means:	Jane Fazio	timestandstill@adelphia.net
Communications:	Raymond Wtulich	wtulichr@hitachimed.com
Sponsorship:	Paul Teets	pteets2669@wideopenwest.com
Tournament Director:	Mark Fazio	timestandstill@adelphia.net

The Winterhurst Board holds regular meetings and all are invited and encouraged to attend. Check the "Board & Committees" link on the web page for the next meeting. As of September, all team managers are requested to be at the board meetings.